



**US Embassy in
Senegal**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**United States Agency for international
Development**



COUNTERPART
Counterpart International



KORANIC SCHOOLS PILOT PROJECT Second Quarterly report (March through May 2007)

Cooperative agreement N°.685-A-00-06-00054-00



June 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	3
I. Executive Summary	4
II. Overall Program Management.....	5
2.1. Administrative management of the program.....	5
2.2. Program Implementation.....	5
2.2.1 Enrolments	5
2.2.2 Attendance	5
2.2.3 Numeracy/Literacy/Life skills	6
2.2.4 Food delivery	8
2.2.5 Health service	8
2.2.6 Outreach activities (primary schools, other koranic schools)	9
2.2.7 Community support/participation	10
III. Special events.....	10
IV. Constraints and Challenges	10
V. Impact.....	11
VI. Activities Planned For Next Quarter (June –August 07)	12
Annex – May – December 2007 Work Plan	13

ACRONYMS

CPI	Counterpart International
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
DALN	Literacy and National Languages Services
HIV	Human Immuno deficiency Virus
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IDEN	Government Local Education Department
MT	Metric Ton
NA	Not Applicable
PIP*	Programme Intégré de Podor
UJAK*	Union des jeunes Agriculteurs du koyli Wirndé
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
USAID	United States Agency for international Development

* **CPI** local partners

I. Executive Summary

During the 4th quarter of FY 2007 Counterpart followed up on the following main activities for the Koranic School pilot Project:

- Commodity distribution
- School Feeding activities
- Continuation of trainings on trilinguism
- Continuation of vocational trainings
- Continuation of numeracy and literacy
- Community Sensitization (lectures and community discussions)
- Radio broadcasts

Koranic schools, called Daaras, are the primary source of education for many children in northern Senegal. The students (taalibes) in the Daaras often lack the necessary resources to provide taalibés with an adequate living and learning environment, nutritional intake, and health services. The poor living and learning conditions result in poorly educated and nutritionally deficient children who seriously lack future economic and educational opportunity.

The Koranic School Pilot Project implemented by Counterpart International and funded by USAID and the US Embassy focuses on finding solutions to address the needs of over 3,800 students attending the rural koranic schools of Mboumba, Belel Boghal, Bodé and Doumgalaw in Podor, and the Koranic School of Koki in Louga.

The following objectives will be achieved through this program:

- Improved learning conditions of talibés
- Increased basic literacy and vocational skills of taalibés
- Improved child health & nutrition in Daaras
- Strengthened community participation in the management and maintenance of Daaras

Counterpart works with school authorities, community leaders and local health facilities to improve students' living and learning conditions, health, and nutrition, and to strengthen community's participation in the management of these koranic schools.

The program will be implemented in a period of 18 months and is budgeted at \$307,500. The effective date of this Agreement is May 10, 2006. The estimated completion date of this Agreement is November-30, 2007.

II. Overall Program Management

2.1. Administrative management of the program

The koranic school pilot project is managed by CPI Technical Adviser, under the supervision of the Country Representative. It's implemented in the field by the Field Program Manager and the School Feeding Officer. Other CPI technical staff provides support as necessary.

All activities are conducted in coordination with USAID/Senegal/CTO who is responsible for:

- (a) Review and approval of CPI's implementation plan, to include any significant revisions;
- (b) Review and approval of selection/replacement of key personnel;
- (c) Review and approval of performance monitoring and evaluation plan;

In the 4th quarter Counterpart submitted an updated work plan integrating activities from May to December 2007.

2.2. Program Implementation

2.2.1 Enrolments

The enrollment of 3,800 total students remains constant at the participating Koranic schools.

-546 in Mboumba

-108 in Bode

- 53 Belel Boghal

- 146 in Doungalaw including 56 who attend public schools

- 3000 in Koki

- 12 % girls

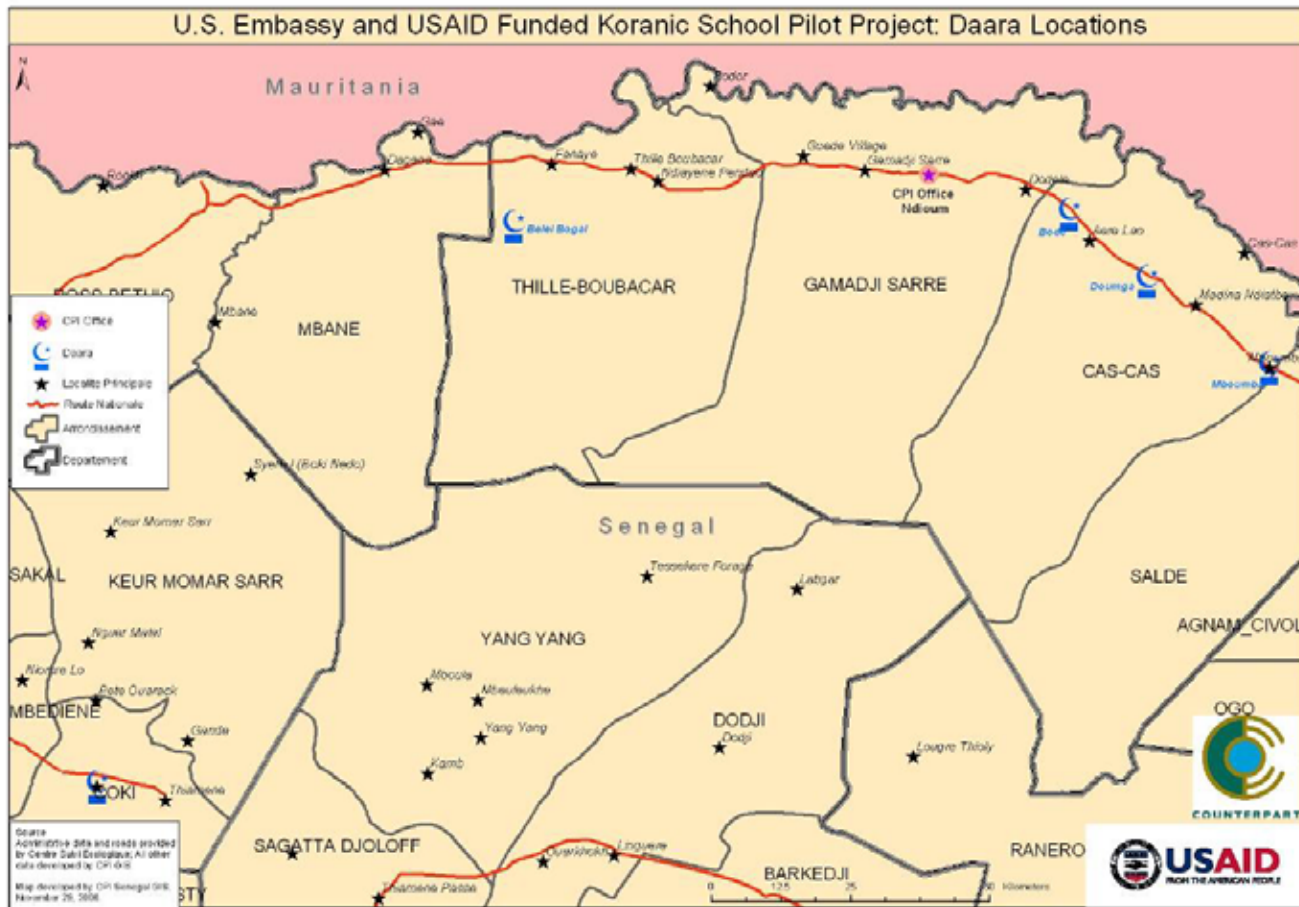
- Student age ranges from 5 - 33 yrs, with the average age from 10 -12 years old

2.2.2 Attendance

Attendance is monitored through registers provided to the Daaras and filled out on a daily basis.

The attendance rate is quite high (99.5%). No drop outs have been reported.

Figure 1: Geographic location of participating Koranic Schools



2.2.3 Numeracy/Literacy/Life skills

Literacy Training

IN Q3 of 2007 a contract was signed with IDEN for the design, implementation and coordination of literacy trainings at the daaras. In the 4th quarter of 2007 an informational meeting was held with participating stake holders (Marabouts, community members, local leaders, etc) to inform everyone about the new curriculum.

Training in Pulaar literacy: - This training encompasses reading and writing through functional literacy processes where students and teachers discuss specific life related themes such as health, hygiene, nutrition, the environment, malaria, etc as well as mathematics in the local language.

Training in French Literacy: - This training emphasizes reading, writing, mathematics and conversational aspects of the French language presented by local primary school teachers based throughout the program area.

Attendance rate for participating students in the Pulaar and French literacy trainings is currently at 94.78%. other positive impacts from the literacy training includes improved and respected hygiene conditions at schools, improved ability to write required Arabic letters as a result of writing in other languages, increased diversification of information on important life messages for participating students. Table 1 below provides the class schedules for the Pulaar and French literacy courses.

Table 1: French and Pulaar Literacy and Numeracy Training Schedule

Daara	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar
Mboumba	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bel Boghal												
Bode												
Doumgalao												

Table 2: Number of Participating Students in Literacy Program

Daara	Number of students
Mboumba	Not participating
Bode	40
Belel Boghal	40
Doumgalao	40
TOTAL	120

As mentioned previously in the second and third quarterly reports the Mboumba Daara found it difficult to accept the literacy and vocational training for their students. Finally, by Q4 2007 it was finally decided that the Mboumba Daara would not participate in literacy curriculum for their students.

Vocational Training

During Q4 vocational training contracts were signed between Counterpart and the respective vocational trainers identified during Q3 vocational training activity development. In Doumgalao Daara there is an outstanding issue as the vocational training originally chosen (Metal Fitting and carpentry) was changed to plumbing. Therefore it was necessary to identify and contract a new vocational trainer. Due to this change the vocational training in Doumgalao has been delayed.

Table 3: Vocational Training Type by School

Daara	Number of vocational trainings chosen	Type of vocational trainings chosen
Mboumba	0	Not Participating
Bode	2	Carpentry (12), sewing (10)
Belel Boghal	1	Sewing (15)
Doumgalao	2	Plumbing (10)

2.2.4 Food delivery

In Q4, Counterpart distributed a total of 25 MT of food commodities to participating Daaras. A total of 68.317 MT were consumed. The following commodity types and quantities were distributed: rice, smoked fish, bulgur, vegetable oil, lentils and tomato paste. The following quantities and type of commodities distributed per Koranic School: Bulgur 14.4 MT, Rice 7.2 MT, 1.43 MT Oil, .60 MT tomato paste and 1.5 MT smoked fish. Although these amounts were distributed to schools the following amounts were actually consumed: Bulgur 48.544 MT, Rice 6.244 MT, Oil 1.479 MT, Lentils .286 MT, Tomato paste .681 MT, Smoked Fish 1.221 MT and Dehy Potatoes 9.995 MT. During the fourth quarter over 25 MT of food commodities were distributed to participating Koranic Schools for use in the school feeding program. A total of 68.317 MT of commodities were consumed by taalibes and school teachers during this period.

During the fourth quarter a total of 3,861 students (3,417 boys and 444 girls) benefited from over 231,375 hot meals served at the Koranic schools.

2.2.5 Health service

Health services are providing free health care to Daaras, however, Counterpart noticed that more sensitization is needed for a systematic utilization of health facilities. During the fourth quarter (May 2007) Counterpart distributed over 4,880 tablets of Mebendazole used for intestinal deworming of students and teachers to all the participating Daaras (See table 4 below).

Table 4: Distributed Deworming Medicine

Daara	Mebendazole Distributed tablets
Mboumba	1,500
Bode	160
Belel Boghal	100
Doumgalao	120
Coki	3,000
TOTAL	4,880

Deworming treatment is provided to students, teachers and school cooks. This represents the second deworming campaign facilitated by Counterpart at the Daaras.

2.2.6 Outreach activities (primary schools, other koranic schools)

As mentioned in the previous report, the health campaign lectures started during the third quarter in coordination with the CPI health team and local health authorities. All the organized lectures on different issues related to health, hygiene and education (See Table 5 below).

Table 5: Q4 Outreach Activities (IEC Lectures)

Daara	Topic	Date	Approximate number of participants	
			Female	Male
Mboumba	Hygiene	05/17/07	122	298
Bode	Hygiene	05/31/07	52	83
Belel Boghal	Education	05/24/07	56	71
Doumgalao	Education	05/23/07	186	105
TOTAL: 973			416	557

Counterpart facilitated the organization by providing money for the rental of chairs and other necessary material for communication with participating communities. Local radio stations (RTS, Sud FM, Walfadjri FM) provided coverage on these important events and broadcasted information on the pilot program in general and on the health lectures in particular.

Regarding IEC tools, all marabouts understand and allow Counterpart to photograph program activities. Counterpart believes that activity photos that illustrate marabouts performing hygiene and health related tasks, (like washing their hands with soap), provides a strong message and positive example to students. Photos will be printed as posters and distributed throughout local communities with health related messages in Arabic and Pulaar written below each poster. Counterpart believes this strategy will effectively target hygiene and health related messages to beneficiaries.



2.2.7 Community support/participation

During the fourth quarter, Counterpart recruited a consultant to provide commodity preparation (bulgur) training at the Coki Daara. Nineteen (19) women benefited from this training and learned over 7 different menus based in bulgur. In coordination with this training, these women also participated in health and hygiene training focused on appropriate hygiene practices required in school cafeterias. Counterpart used IEC materials designed by Counterpart and approved by IDEN and used in their Title II school feeding program to sensitize and increase local awareness on proper school health and hygiene techniques.

III. Special events

Coki Cooking utensil Distribution and Presentation of Certificates

During Q4, Counterpart International Program Coordinator in coordination with the USAID CTO, Mamadou Diarra and associated trainers traveled to Coki Daara to present requested cooking utensils, cooking pots, mats, bowls and cups to facilitate the implementation of the school feeding program at Coki Daara. Additionally, Counterpart's program coordinator in coordination with the USAID CTO and computer literacy trainers presented certificates to trainees who received USAID computer training on computers, software and hardware (printers, mouse, etc) previously donated by the Honorable US Ambassador, Janice L. Jacobs and USAID mission Director Olivier Carduner.

Daara Distribution of School Supplies, Health Kits, Clothes and Shoes

During Q4 Counterpart continued distribution of donated personal hygiene kits, school supplies and assorted shoes and clothes to the Daara of Bode, Mboumba, and Belel Boghal located in the Department of Podor. For this specific presentation, Counterpart's Program management Coordinator, Corin Kaye, based in Washington DC participated in the distribution ceremony with Counterpart field staff based in Ndioum.

IV. Constraints and Challenges

Most constraints and challenges identified during the previous quarter are still valid and noted below.

- Budget constraints in regards to the need associated with rehabilitation and/or construction of sufficient shelters and dormitories;
- The resistance of marabouts in Mboumba to realize full and timely program implementation;
- Additional equipment and raw material costs for effective vocational training;

- Additional support for Coki Koranic School (although not originally budgeted in the Pilot program) Counterpart in coordination with USAID would like to continue to provide assistance as done this quarter (purchase of cooking utensils);
- Many Koranic Schools in the department of Podor and other regions (Matam) are expecting to benefit from the Koranic school project;
- A major challenge will be activity sustainability and the finalization of the time constraints for vocational trainings. Only 9 months remain to train Taalibés in complex skills such as sewing, carpentry, etc. This restraint may not be feasible in terms of expecting vocational skills to be passed onto students in such a short time frame.

V. Impact

Although a full impact assessment has not been conducted the following preliminary short term impacts are noted:

- Attendance rate for participating students in the Pulaar and French literacy trainings is currently at 94.78%, indicating acceptance and exceptional interest in these programs;
- Improved and respected hygiene conditions at schools due to health and hygiene awareness campaigns;
- Improved ability to write not only French and Pulaar letters but an indication and increased comfort level in reading and writing transferred in to an increased ability to write in Arabic;
- Increased exposure to new and diverse subject materials through educational lectures and awareness campaigns.

Finally, it is clear from the various communications, speeches and dialogues, that a major program impact is a perceptual change that local communities, Marabout and students have towards the United States and their relations with Muslim people. People living in implementing communities see US support as strong evidence of the friendship, well-meaning and respect that American people have for Muslims.

VI. Activities Planned For Next Quarter (June –August 07)

The following activities are scheduled for the upcoming quarter:

- ▶ Commodity distribution
- ▶ Daara Exchange visits
- ▶ Monitoring of the numeracy and literacy trainings
- ▶ Purchase of the material for the vocational trainings
- ▶ Monitoring of the vocational trainings
- ▶ Community Sensitization (lectures and community discussions)
- ▶ Hygiene and Health posters finalized
- ▶ Radio broadcasts

Annex – May – December 2007 Work Plan

Activity	Time period	Responsibility	Observations/Explanation	Expected Results
I.R. 1. Improved learning conditions of the talibes				
1.1. Provision of hot meals	May to December 2007 onwards	Project Manager; School Feeding officer	ok	<p>- At least 800 students and teachers of the Koranic schools of Mboumba, Doungalaw, Belel Boghel and Bode will receive a daily hot meal starting August.</p> <p>- The Daara of Koki has already received 110 MT of bulgur, 45 MT of dehydrated potato flakes, 1 MT of lentil and 1MT of WSB in support to its school canteen. In addition, cooking utensils (pots, pans and bowls) were provided to Koki</p>
I.R.2. Increased basic literacy and vocational skills of the talibes				
2.2. Literacy trainings	May to December 2007 onwards (Starts in January 2007)	Project Manager; IDEN;	Taalibes are receiving literacy classes in French, Poular and Arabic	120 taalibes from the daaras of Bode, Doumga Lao, Belel Boghal are attending literacy and numeracy courses ; Only the daara of Mboumba refused to participate in those trainings
2.3. Vocational training	May to December 2007 onwards	Project Manager Field Manager	Training are offered to students in carpentry, sewing, masonry, and metal fitting	49 taalibes from the daaras of Bode, Doumga Lao, Belel Boghal are attending the vocational trainings; Only the daara of Mboumba refused to participate in those trainings
2.5. Exchange visits	July 2007	Project Manager	- Visits to Koki by Mboumba, Bode, Doungalaw and Belel Boghel teachers	- Relation between Koki and other daaras established and experiences shared

I.R..3. Improved child health & nutrition in Daraas				
3.1. Deworming campaigns	May to November 2007	Project Manager; Health Program Manager	All the taalibes in the Daaras including Koki were de wormed in May 2007 for the second time. The next de worming campaign will take place in October 2007	At least 3,800 students and teaching personnel will be de-wormed every six month starting November 2006
3.2. IEC campaigns	May to December 2007 (July, October and December)	Project Manager; Health Program Manager Marabouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IEC campaigns will deliver health and hygiene messages Prior to giving the de worming medicines, koranic teachers, caretakers, and students will be sensitized about the medication and its effects through lectures conducted by marabouts and health personnel; - Posters on health and hygiene will be distributed to daaras 	<p>At least each daara will organize an IEC campaign every six month;</p> <p>At least one radio broadcast about the daara program will be conducted every month in at least one of the local radios</p> <p>1500 health and hygiene posters will be distributed to daaras;</p>
3.3. Provision of health/hygiene materials	May to October 2007	Project Manager; Health Program Manager	<p>Koranic schools are already provided with first aid kits/medicines.</p> <p>Counterpart leveraged US\$50,000 worth of clothing, school supplies, de-worming medicines and other pharmaceuticals through CPI's private resource partners</p>	<p>Each daara received one first-aid kit and 2 to 4 water filters</p> <p>The health structure serving the Daaras will be equipped with health materials such as hemocue, glucometer, blood pressure devices, etc in August 2007;</p>
3.4. Training of health personnel	September 2007	Health Program Manager	Health personnel from the health structures located at project sites will be trained in the use of the newly acquired material	Health personnel trained in the use of the new material

I.R. 4. Strengthened community participation in the management and maintaining of daaras learning and physical environment				
4.1. Hand over of certificates	December 2007	USAID, US Embassy, CPI, IDEN	Certificates will be given to taalibés and marabouts for vocational trainings as well as literacy and numeracy trainings	

